Lake Witten
2006

Lake Witten is a 51-acre impoundment owned by Tazewell County. The reservoir was constructed in 1988. The land surrounding the lake is a mix of grasslands and forest.

The reservoir supports a diverse fish community including: largemouth and smallmouth bass, bluegill and redbreast sunfish, black crappie, channel catfish and trout. Rock bass, walleye and grass carp are also collected occasionally.

The largemouth bass population is excellent in Lake Witten. About 100 bass are collected per hour of sampling, which is well above average for small impoundments in Southwest Virginia. The size structure of the bass population is also very good, with about 20 percent of the adult bass collected exceeding 15 inches in length. The lake has trophy bass potential as well; several bass over 20 inches in length were collected in 2005.

Bluegills are the dominant sunfish species at Lake Witten. Anglers should encounter good numbers of these popular sport fish. Some very nice bluegills over eight inches in length were collected in 2005. Black crappie abundance was considerably higher in 2005. Catch rates increased from about 4 per hour to 16 per hour.

A few walleyes have been collected during recent samples. Walleyes were stocked into Lake Witten from 1995 through 1997. These fish are really nice now, and should provide some limited angling opportunities for a few more years.

Many anglers fish Lake Witten for stocked trout. Catchable-sized brown and rainbow trout are stocked periodically from October through May. Because the lake is part of the put-and-take trout program, a trout license is required to fish the lake from October 1 through June 15.

Tazewell County operates Cavitt's Creek Park on the lands adjacent to the reservoir. A boat ramp and some other facilities are available. For more information on what the park has to offer contact the Park Ranger at (276)-988-7250.

For more information on the lake's fishery contact Tom Hampton by telephone (276) 783-4860 or e-mail tom.hampton@dgif.virginia.gov.